

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1457

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DEPARTMENT PASS BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS;
PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: METRIC CONVERSION PLAN FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

REF: STATE 159537

1. THE DEFINITION OF A LITER IN GERMANY IS BASED ON A
DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS SYSTEM, METRIC
CONVENTION IN PARIS. GERMANY HAS FULLY RECOG-
NIZED THE SCIENTIFIC DEFINITION OF THE SIX BASIC UNITS.
THE LITER CONSEQUENTLY IS DEFINED AS: 1 LITER EQUALS
1 DECIMETER CUBED.

2. IN DETERMINING NET CONTENTS OF BOTTLES OR OTHER CON-
TAINERS USED AS MEASURING UNITS FOR ANY TYPE OF LIQUID
FOOD, INCLUDING WINE, THE REFERENCE TEMPERATURE IS 20
DEGREES CENTIGRADE. (SEE ARTICLE 1P OF THE CONSUMER
PACKAGING ORDINANCE (C.P.O.) REPORTED IN BONN A-257 OF
MARCH 13, 1972.) IN CASE THE PRODUCT IS BOTTLED AT A
HIGHER TEMPERATURE, THE VOLUME MEASUREMENT OF THE CON-
TAINER AT THE TIME OF FILLING MUST BE INCREASED BY THE
CALCULATED INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF WATER AT THAT SAME
TEMPERATURE. THE COMPENSATORY FACTORS ARE BASED ON
WATER REGARDLESS OF THE LIQUID FOODS BEING FILLED.

3. TO ILLUSTRATE: IN FILLING HEATED WINE AT 60 DEGREES
CENTIGRADE INTO A BOTTLE WITH A LABELED VOLUME OF 0.70
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LITERS, THE MINIMUM VOLUME OF THE BOTTLE MUST BE 0.711

LITERS.

4. WE ARE FORWARDING THE GERMAN TABLE (FROM THE CONSUMER
PACKAGING ORDINANCE) SHOWING THE VOLUME CHANGES OF WATER
AT VARIOUS TEMPERATURES, COMPARED TO 20 DEGREES CELSIUS,
FROM WHICH THE ABOVE EXAMPLE WAS CALCULATED.
HILLENBRAND

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